759

The laſt Speech, Confeſſion, and Dying Words, OF A QUEEN ANN's GUINEA,

Who was tried, and condemned, on a late Act of Parliament, for being TOO LIGHT; and executed by the unmerciful Hands of a Butcher, in SALISBURY MARKET.

GENTLEMEN SPECTATORS,

AS it is cuſtomary for perſons in my unhappy ſituation, to make ſome confeſſion, and give a particular account of themſelves; therefore as *I* am about to ſuffer ſo ſhameful, painful, and ignominious a death, I can have no motive to declare a falſity, therefore you may depend on the truth and veracity of what I now ſay. I do here moſt ſolemnly declare that I am entirely innocent of the crimes laid to my charge, and that I never was unlawfully diminiſhed, by *filing*, *clipping*, or any other *means*, and that my *lightneſs* came merely by *wear*; I do not ſay *lawful wear*, for as I underſtand that *gaming* is not *lawful* in this Kingdom, and as moſt of my *Wear* has proceeded from that, therefore I omit the word *lawful*. I was coin'd in the year 1750, being the third of the reign of Queen Ann; I was directly iſſued into the treaſury, and from thence to pay the ſalary of one of the lords of the bedchamber. I further declare, that I was coined of as good gold as any that ever was before or ſince, and which my worſt enemies cannot deny but I am ſo ſtill. But when you conſider impartially how often I have been *ſhuffled*, *buſled*, and *toſſed* about at *gaming*, *by Dukes*, *Earls*, *Lords*, and *Ladies*, of all *Ranks* and *Ages*; that however juſt *Sir Iſaac Newton*'s *calculations* may be, I declare that I have loſt more of my *Weight* in one Evening by being ſo *ſhuffled* and *rubbed* about, than *his* whole *Allowance of a Farthing* a Year.

And when you farther conſider how often I have been *ſifted* and *counted backward* and *forward*, at the *Bank* and *Treaſury Office*, &c. &c. how often I have been carried about looſe in Gentlemen's Pockets among Silver, &c. how often I have been jolted and rubbed by them when riding; and indeed now of late among the *farmers*, *graziers*, *&c.* who ſince the exhorbitant and extortionate price of proviſions, make no more of me than they uſed to do of a ſhilling. And indeed the generality of them have got more of my fellows than they uſed to have of ſhillings. Likewiſe how often and how many *merchants*, and *ſhopkeepers* counters I have been counted over; and have been told and retold by innumerable hands of all ſorts that I have paſſed thro', where I have met with good and bad uſage.

But I never met with ſuch good treatment as when I chanced to get into a poor man's hands; for he generally wrapt me in a piece of paper, and took ſuch care of me, that I never ſuffered the leaſt dimunition in his cuſtody. But ſince the dearneſs of proviſions, I have ſeldom had the happineſs to come into their hands; and I never had ſuch a long reſt, as when I once was locked up in a miſer's cheſt for five years; being never diſturbed, but twice a year, when he took it in his head to have the pleaſure of counting us, and which was the greateſt pleaſure he ever had. And here I found that I got more wear by circulating one month, and doing univerſal good, than thouſands of my fellows, who had been dormant in this fellow's cheſt for thirty years, and who may eſcape my ſevere and unjuſt fate, by having the fortune to be hoarded up, and do leſs good than *I*.

And now that I have made this full, true confeſſion, permit me to ſhew you this picture, and give you my advice. Behold in me the *mutability*, *uncertainty*, and *vanity* of all worldly *grandeur*, *greatneſs*, and *power*. -- *I*, whoſe body was compoſed of the moſt beautiful and precious ſubſtance that this world affords, and received the greateſt name and title that this country ever beſtowed, even to a bye-word; for the uſual appellation to diſtinguiſh any thing fine and good, is—Nothing can beat it, but a QUEEN ANN's GUINEA.

I, who have been the companion of Kings, Princes, Dukes, Lords, &c. and have thought themſelves honoured by poſſeſſing me: *I*, whoſe power was ſo great, that the power of the greateſt Emperors and Monarchs is extended, or contracted, according to the greater or leſs quantity of *me* they have. It is *I* who aſſemble mighty armies, and give them ſpirit and courage to fight; and cauſe Fleets to ride triumphant on the ſeas. It is *I* who give motion to the tongue of the Lawyer and Divine, and cauſeth the Phyſician to exert his ſkill;--and *I* who have cauſed the heart of the moſt cruel Fair to melt and yeild to the embraces of the lover; and the caſe-hardened breaſt of the Jailor and Executioner, to diſſolve in pity; who rejoiced the heart of the poor, and diffuſed happineſs where ever I came. But now, behold me diſrobed of that power, deſpiſed and contemned, and unable to help myſelf. Think of this ye great, ye rich, ye proud, for your ſtate is as uncertain as mine; and all ranks of ye, depend upon it, will be weighed in the ſtrict balance of Juſtice, by the Almighty, and if found deficient, will be cut in pieces by his power and wrath.

And, Gentlemen, my advice to remedy as much as poſſible this confuſion that is among you, is, to make no objections, except when viſibly bad. My hiſtory, which you no doubt expected, is too long for the time *I* am permitted to remain *here*, but which *I* have left with my Printer, who promiſes this; and as I have taken care to deſcribe the various Characters I have gone thro, and as *I* have been in the poſſeſſion of both Majority and Minority, & admitted to all their moſt ſecret Councils, it cannot fail but be inſtructive and entertaining, and he promiſes me he will ſoon publiſh it for the benefit of the world.

When he finiſhed theſe words, the Butcher laid him on the block, and at one blow with his mighty cleaver ſevered him in two, to the great ſorrow and loſs of his Owner.